

UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY

PROCEDURES FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY REGISTRATION

An independent study may be undertaken by students in any degree program to explore a particular area of interest. Independent studies may not be used for required courses. Students who undertake independent studies are subject to the same academic policies and procedures that apply to regularly scheduled courses.

1. Confer with the instructor to reach consensus regarding the nature of the independent study, including the number of credits to be awarded.

2. Prepare a ROSA statement (see sample below) that describes:

(R) The Rationale for the independent study: Why you want to undertake this study; how this study will enhance your ministry goals

(O) The Outcomes of the study: What you intend to study; what you intend to learn by the end of the study, what learning you should be able to demonstrate

(S) The Strategies used in the study: How you will study the material, including reading assignments and meetings with the instructor

(A) The Assessment instruments to be used in the study: How will your learning be measured; what instruments will be used by the instructor, including tests, papers, projects

3. Obtain the approval signatures of the instructor and the Dean.

4. Register for the course by attaching the approved ROSA statement to the Registrar at jritter@uls.edu

SAMPLE ROSA STATEMENT

Student: Terry Smith **Degree Program:** MDiv (Senior)
Term: Fall 2009 **Credits:** 3 credits
Professors: Marty Stevens and Mark Oldenburg **Grade Choice:** Letter grade

Independent Study: Worship Rituals in Ancient Mesopotamia

Rationale: The liturgies of the Christian church find their antecedents in the Jewish liturgies of the early centuries of the common era. Jewish liturgies of worship, in turn, were influenced by the worship rituals of the surrounding cultures. Ancient Mesopotamia in particular had a significant influence on Israel/Judah. My study will focus on the eighth to sixth centuries BCE. Study of ancient rituals can foster an appreciation of the diversity of liturgical practice in modern societies.

Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe significant rituals of ancient Mesopotamia in the 8th to 6th centuries BCE, including the *akitu* festival of Marduk.
2. Investigate religious rituals of ancient Israel/Judah in biblical and extra-biblical sources.
3. Compare and contrast rituals of ancient Israel/Judah with those of ancient Mesopotamia.

Strategies:

1. Develop annotated bibliography on rituals of ancient Mesopotamia by September 15.
2. Develop annotated bibliography on rituals of ancient Israel/Judah by October 1.
3. Select most appropriate readings in consultation with instructors by October 15.
4. Meet with instructors twice monthly to review progress and receive suggestions.

Assessment:

1. Quality of annotated bibliographies.
2. Final paper of 12-15 pages due December 15 (outline due Dec 1).

Student: Terry Smith

Date: April 4, 2009

Instructor: Marty Stevens

Date: April 5, 2009

Instructor: Mark Oldenburg

Date: April 5, 2009

Dean: Robin Steinke

Date: April 6, 2009